

## United States Attorney Southern District of New York

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## NEW YORK TIMES ROBBERY 'INSIDER' SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 4 YEARS IN PRISON ON CONSPIRACY CHARGES

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ANTHONY CAPANELLI was sentenced Monday afternoon in Manhattan federal court by United States District Judge CHARLES S. HAIGHT to 51 months in prison on charges stemming from his participation in a conspiracy with members of the Genovese Organized Crime Family to rob The New York Times Employee Federal Credit Union at the College Point Plant in Queens, New York.

CAPANELLI, 37, a former pressman who worked at both the New York Post and The New York Times newspapers, was arrested on December 5, 2001, along with 72 other defendants – including 3 capos, 7 soldiers and numerous associates of the Genovese Organized Crime Family. The 5 other defendants charged with CAPANELLI on the armed robbery conspiracy charges included long-time Genovese Soldiers Carmine Russo and Elio Albanese, who pled guilty in May

2002 and were sentenced to 57 months and 70 months of imprisonment, respectively. The 2 others convicted of the armed robbery conspiracy charges, Genovese associates Joe Savarese, a former New York Police Department ("NYPD") officer, and Nicholas Fiorello, received 84 months' and 37 months' imprisonment, respectively, at their sentencings.

The arrests of CAPANELLI and his co-defendants represented the culmination of a 40-month investigation in which an undercover NYPD detective - known as "Big Frankie" - and several cooperating witnesses operating under the direction of the FBI and NYPD, infiltrated the Genovese Crime Family. The FBI described the undercover operation at the time of the arrests as "one of the most successful and significant undercover operations in law enforcement history."

To date, 70 of the defendants arrested on December 5, 2001, have been convicted. The lead defendant in the case, Pasquale Parrello, a/k/a "Patsy," a capo in the Genovese Organized Crime Family, previously pled guilty in Manhattan federal court to racketeering charges relating to his many years of leadership of a Bronx-based La Cosa Nostra crew. Parrello, 58, pled guilty in a 98-count Indictment that also charged 50 of the 70 other defendants to conducting and conspiring to conduct the affairs of a racketeering enterprise through a pattern of 20 separate acts of racketeering activity, including: loansharking, extortion, embezzlement and labor

racketeering, trafficking in contraband cigarettes, liquor and stolen jewelry, credit card fraud and attempted bank fraud and gambling. Those defendants who have been convicted, in addition to Parrello, include capo Rosario Gangi, a/k/a "Rossi," capo Joe Denti, a/k/a "Joe D.," as well as soldiers Vito DiSalvo, Carmine Russo, a/k/a "Baby Carmine," Elio Albanese, a/k/a "Chinatown," Mike Grisante, a/k/a, "Mikey Hands" and Dominick Nicastro.

According to the evidence at trial, CAPANELLI was the "insider" who plotted with members of the Genovese Family to steal more than \$2 million dollars in proceeds from a Federal Employee Credit Union located at the College Point Plant. According to the evidence at trial, CAPANELLI used his access to the New York Times plant to obtain pressman's uniforms, parking passes and other material necessary to allow his co-conspirators to surreptitiously gain access to the College Point Plant to commit the planned armed robbery of the Credit Union. The evidence also established that CAPANELLI drew meticulous maps of the College Point - including details about the location of the Credit Union and the New York Times security force - to aid his co-conspirators in the plot.

CAPANELLI, 37, lives in Long Island.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the Joint Organized Crime Task Force composed of the FBI and the NYPD, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the United States Secret

Service and the Social Security Administration

Assistant United States Attorneys MATTHEW L. BIBEN, EDWARD C. O'CALLAGHAN, and DAVID RASKIN, are in charge of the prosecution.

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